

Nebraska Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC INTERNET ENHANCEMENT FUND GRANT AWARD

LINCOLN, MARCH 22, 2017— The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) has awarded a \$75,000 grant to Box Butte County from the [Nebraska Internet Enhancement Fund \(NIEF\)](#) for 2017.

“These monies will be used to further efforts to ensure more rural Nebraskans have access to broadband and telecommunications services,” said Commissioner Tim Schram, Chairman Nebraska Public Service Commission. “It is our hope this grant will lead to future projects focusing on the build-out of fiber within Box Butte County.”

The grant approved for Box Butte County will be used to help fund a project providing for the installation of fixed fiber leading to increased broadband service to 20 homes north of the city of Alliance.

Established in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature, the [NIEF](#) uses a share of the proceeds from public entities that lease dark fiber optics to fund grants for infrastructure projects that deliver broadband or other advanced telecommunications products. The grants focus on areas of the state that are unserved or underserved by such services.

Commissioner Schram said, “Local entities and economic development groups need to know this funding is available. We encourage them to apply for a NIEF grant as a way of acquiring startup monies for infrastructure projects.”

To date the PSC has awarded \$735,000 in funds from the NIEF to four cities, seven counties and one cooperative across the state.

For more information on applying for a NIEF grant visit the Nebraska Public Service website @ www.psc.nebraska.gov and click on the NIEF Grant Information link on the homepage. ###

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